

REMARKS

Claims 5 and 16 are now pending in the application. Claims 1-4 and 9-15 are cancelled herein. Claims 5 and 16 are rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, 4, 9, 13 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Yoshinuma et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6,378,199). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Notwithstanding, claims 1, 2, 4, 9, 13 and 15 are cancelled. Accordingly, this rejection is moot.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 3, 10-12 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshinuma et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6,378,199). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Notwithstanding, claims 3, 10-12 and 14 are cancelled. Accordingly, this rejection is moot.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner states that claims 5 and 16 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicants amend claims 5 and 16 to include the

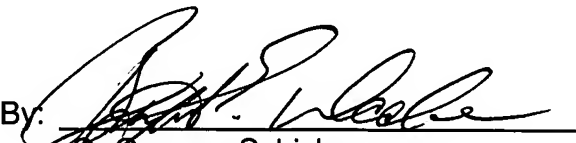
limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, claims 5 and 16 should now be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: July 17, 2006

By: 
G. Gregory Schivley
Reg. No. 27,382
Bryant E. Wade
Reg. No. 40,344

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600

[GGS/BEW/pvd]